

# Become one of the first Maryland Service Year Option Host Partners

## What is the Service Year Option?

The Service Year Option provides recent Maryland high school graduates, GED recipients or those who have earned a high school completion certificate the opportunity to spend one year with partnering organizations that support their growth and development. In turn, the opportunities provided strengthen Maryland's workforce and expand the state's employment rates.

## What Type of Organization is Eligible to Host Service Year Option Members?

Service Year Option partners are nonprofit, government agencies or businesses that focus on community or other services, service-learning, volunteerism, or various activities or experiences with a service-oriented mission.

## What Does a Partnership Look Like?

- Hosting at least 2-3 members, and potentially more based on organizational capacity, from October 2023–August 2024.
- Providing meaningful work and ongoing supervision for the members including on-site professional development, job training, and mentoring.
- Supporting wrap-around services to members when available and needed (examples include childcare, transportation, financial literacy skills, and job search and college application support).
- Committing to strengthen the talent pipeline into high-demand jobs, state and local government positions, and to fill present and future employment needs in Maryland.

## What Does Service Year Option Need from Partners?

Partners share the commitment to develop and support the talent needed for Maryland's future. After a year of service with your organization, the supervision and mentorship has allowed members to develop skills that will enable them to successfully make the transition from their Service Year to employment, an institution of higher education, toward vocational certificates, associate degrees or bachelor's degrees.



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## Benefits of the Service Year Option Program

### Service Year Option Members:

- Earn \$15/hour and \$6K toward tuition costs or as a cash stipend upon successful completion.
- Learn relevant professional and financial literacy skills.
- Work at least 30 hours a week at your organization and participate in targeted professional development.
- Receive the support necessary to succeed in the program—professional development, job training, mentoring and other support from your organization.

### Partner Benefits:

- Add organizational capacity.
- Help young people identify and achieve their career goals.
- Ensure Maryland is training the next generation of leaders.

### Important Dates:

- Apply to be a Partner by August 31, 2023. Indicate your interest in becoming a host partner here: <https://serving.md.gov/employer/registration>.
- If selected, participate in virtual matching process with Service Year Option Members beginning September 2023.
- Program Duration: October 25, 2023–August 30, 2024.

For more information contact  
[dsci.gov@maryland.gov](mailto:dsci.gov@maryland.gov)

## Does Partnership Come with a Cost?

Cost-sharing is a goal of the Service Year Option program. All organizations, regardless of size may participate; however below are the cost-sharing goals for:

- **Small Organizations:** the state will reimburse the fully burdened cost (i.e. salary and member fringe benefits).
- **Medium Organizations:** the state will cover salary only, but your organization will be responsible for member fringe benefits).
- **Large Organizations:** the organization will cover the direct financial costs, but the state provides indirect benefits to the members.



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